The Anarcho-Syndicalist

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Editorial

Number 3 March 2000

Welcome to the third edition of the Anarcho- Syndicalist.

As the world starts the new millennium, we can only hope and aspire for a safer and more just world. Not much has changed in world affairs as well as locally since issue two came out. On a local note, you may remember in issue two of 'The Anarcho-Syndicalist' the Brunswick residents fight to stop their health clinic closure. To rub salt into the wound, Brunswick residents also face the prospect of a freeway extension/ link that is proposed along Merri Creek following decades of community action and revegetating to restore the creek.

Workers are up against the wall now as much as ever. It's now the norm to read the paper or watch the news about yet another worker killed in an industrial accident. What some of us may have yesteryear considered a permanent job now all of a sudden is a 6 month contract. The Australian Labor Party is in fact just Another Liberal Party. Victoria's premier, Jeff Kennett, is gone. But with him go millions in superannuation and tax payer subsidies (perks).

I thought things were bad here in Australia, but after reading about the plight of Domestic Workers (house slaves to put it mildly) in Bangladesh makes it clearer to me the importance for workplace struggle both on a local as well as an international level. The employing class and the working class have nothing in common. Thanks to regular email updates from our comrades in Bangladesh, I hope to see regular updates concerning the struggle of working people in Bangladesh in this as well as future editions of 'The Anarcho-Syndicalist'.

My tenure as secretary has been an eventful one indeed, and I wish Bonnie the best of luck as secretary of the ASG-M into the new millennium.

Highlights in this edition of 'The Anarcho-Syndicalist' include regular columns 'Anarchy and Text', 'On The Dole Queue', and 'It Happened In History'. As well, a report on Czech Republic section of the IWA and their solidarity actions with Czech miners. An interesting article on the recycling industry and government legislation. Book and music reviews, and whatever else we can jam into 20 burning pages guaranteed to knock the socks off even the most shitty boss.

Finally we welcome any contributions, so if you do have something to say or would like to respond to anything, please contact us:

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Email:asg-m@xchange.anarki.net

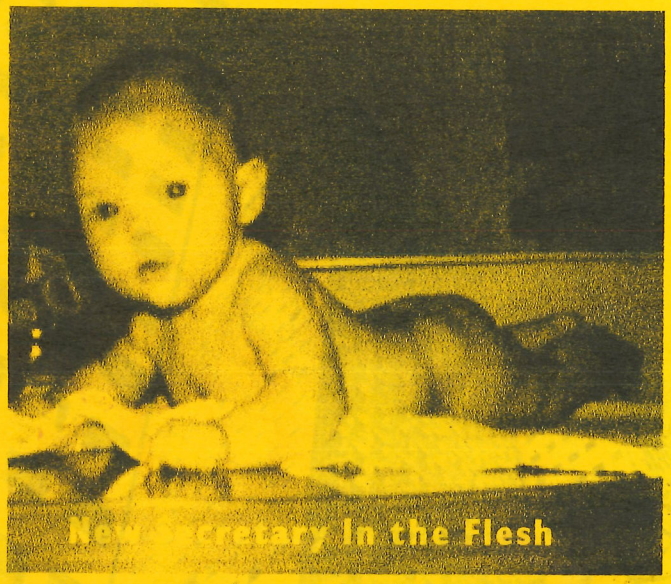
Message Service: 0414 380 211 or check out our Web page:

http://www.xchange.anarki.net/~asgm

Read on and enjoy!

In solidarity,

Georgios Alexandrou (madwog)



New Secretary In the Flesh

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NEWS DIGEST

Local, Intersate and Overseas News

Domestic Workers observed World Human Rights Day '99 as Protest of Human Rights Violation

Protest & Silent Procession with Black Flag and Black Mask of Domestic Workers

The Domestic Workers Association, Bangladesh, observed 10th December 1999(World Human Rights Day), as a day to highlight human rights abuses in their workplaces.

The Association held a silent procession, with the workers carrying black flags and wearing black masks. The procession started at 10am from the Muktangoan (central point of Dhaka city), and walked the streets, finishing at Purana Paltan.

Before the procession, the workers listened to speakers including the DWAB co-ordinator Amirul Haque Min and also Mrs Hasna Banu, Aklima Begum, Kulsum Begum, Sahida Sarker, Mrs Nahar, Arifa Akter, Morium Begum and Mrs Fatema, who are all members of the DWAB.

They highlighted the fact that every day in Bangledesh, domestic workers are subjected to rape, burning, kidnapping and murder. From June to 10th December 1999, reported incidents included 39 rapes, 27 murders, 8 murders with rape, 6 burn casualties, 17 kidnapping incidents, 6 suicides following torture, 51 cases of forced prostitution, 4,000 dismissals, and around 15,000 cases of homelessness through job loss.

The speakers added that these incidents are not taken seriously by the government. They argued that this is because the domestic workers are poverty stricken and disorganised.

As a result of the demonstration, the Domestic Workers Association declared on ongoing campaign and action programme.

The activities will include :

1. 11th December '99 to 31th: Domestic workers meetings in Dhaka and outside Dhaka.
2. January 1st to 15th 2000: Postering and Leafletting.
3. January 16th to 31st 2000: Memorandum to the Law Ministry, the Women & Children's Affairs Ministry, and the Home Ministry.
4. February 2000: Memorandum to the Labour ministry and I.L.O
5. March 2000: Sit-In-Strike in front of the Prime Minister's office.

Domestic Workers Association, Bangladesh seeks support and solidarity on both a national and international level .

In Bangladesh, more than 5 million domestic workers are working in inhuman conditions. They are the lowest paid workers. And also not recognised and deprived from the legal rights.

UPDATE

Meetings of domestic workers were held in Dhaka from December 15th - 31st. 31 meetings were held in total, with the main concern being the organising of domestic workers. A total of 684 people participated, all of whom expressed their desire to join the DWAB. They will form a branch committee soon.

Stop the social catastrophe in Northern Bohemia

Miners from Koh-i-noor Mine Demonstrate during a Session of the Government in Prague

Northern Bohemian miners from the Koh-i-noor mine, which was recently sold to the foreign investor Apian Group, recently organised some direct action in protest against the announced plan to shut down the mine completely.

On Wednesday August 23rd the Czech government sold 46% of shares of "Most Coal Company" to the Apian Group, which is headed by former chief of the World Bank, Jacques de Groot. The sale contained absolutely no guarantees for the 1200 miners who are working there presently. No social compensation fund has been created and neither has a fund to repair enormous ecological damages.More than US$200 million are needed to counter the damage to the environment.

Unemployment in most of the region is the worst in the whole of the Czech republic. It recently exceeded 19% and is currently skyrocketing. There are more than 40 applicants for every vacant job. The firing of 1200 Koh-i-noor Miners will push the unemployment rate to over 25%.

The Koh-i-noor mine is still productive and creates a

profit yet despite this it will be closed . The market value of the 46% sold to Apian Group has been estimated at US$150 million., however, the Apian Group bought it for US$18million. The State will also give the Apian Group US$20 million to create a "reserve fund" for non specified purposes, with no obligation for the Apian Group to, for example, create alternative jobs for unemployed miners. The Apian Group got a company worth US$150 million free of charge plus US$2 million as a bonus!!!

More than 200 miners gathered in front of Kolodeje castle, where the government held a meeting about the future of the mine. Unfortunately the action was rather moderate in spite of ministers arriving in their luxury limousines being given a really noisy welcome. Several trade union bureaucrats tried to calm down the rank and file miners, but their pleas were mostly ignored. Minister of Social Affairs, Vladimir Spidla, tried to address the miners, but in vain. Their response was loud and clear: miners no longer believe him!

The action included the participation of the Federation of Social Anarchists (FSA). A group of members of the FSA Regional Federation West attended the demonstration with black and red flags and many banners. Warmly welcomed by miners, they distributed almost two hundred magazines and many leaflets. FSA comrades stayed during the whole action and engaged in lively discussion with miners. It was again seen that the Czech working class is beginning to respect the anarchists as an organic part of the workers movement. Several miners took FSA banners with them in order to display them in their workplaces.

Slogan on FSA pickets: "You got the profits, we got the misery!"

The Federation of Social Anarchists (FSA) is the Czech section of the International Workers Association.

JUSTICE IN THIS MILLENNIUM?

On October 13, 1999, PA Governor Ridge signed a new death warrant against Mumia, set for December 2, 1999. Mumia's attorneys have filed a habeus corpus petition in Federal district court and the Federal judge has issued a stay of execution while that petition is being considered.

This court ruling, by Federal District Judge William H. Yohn, Jr., may determine whether or not Mumia receives an "evidentiary hearing" to reopen the factual record in his case, or whether all future appeals will be based on the court record of the "hanging judge", Albert Sabo. Judge Sabo found every prosecution witness to be truthful, found every defense witness to be untruthful, and barred the admission of witnesses and documents critical to Mumia's defense. Judge Yohn must now decide whether or not to exercise his power to review fully all aspects of State court rulings and findings of fact. This ruling is crucial, because it determines whether the evidence barred by Pennsylvania courts will ever be heard, and it will determine what record of the facts in this case will be used during all future Federal appeals.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was a radio journalist in Philadelphia, known as "the voice of the voiceless". Mumia is a recipient of awards and honours for his reporting on police misconduct, abuse of authority, and racial discrimination, education and housing in Philadelphia.

For the last 17 years Mumia has been locked alone in a cell 23 hours a day and denied contact visits with his family. His confidential legal mail has been opened and reproduced by prison authorities, and he was placed in punitive detention for writing his book, Live from Death Row. Recently the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals found this punishment to be unconstitutional, concluding that prison officials had yielded to pressure from the Fraternal Order of Police. However, journalists are still prohibited from filming or recording interviews with him. As Mumia put it, "They don't just want my death, they want my silence."

Mass movements can shape court decisions. This is particularly true in high profile political cases that concentrate broader issues being fought out in society. Already there have been many demonstrations and protests across the globe. There are countless Mumia support groups in communities, unions and schools.

If you want to get involved in the campaign to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, contact:

* Anarcho-Syndicalist Group of Melbourne
(contact details on back page)
* Anarchist Black Cross
PO Box 199, BRUNSWICK EAST 3057

Been Screwed Lately?

From April three private companies will be running parts of the UK's government Employment Service. If you live in certain areas, are over 25, and have been signing on for at least a year then welcome to the 'employment zone'.

The idea of Employment Zones are to centralise all work related government schemes. In theory the service is more about getting you decent training than a crap job. But of course, these companies are in it for profit. Decent training costs a lot of money,while forcing someone into a crap, unsubsidised job costs nothing. If the company can find you a job, it gets to keep all the money allocated to each client by the government. As Kevin Faulkner, company secretary to Manpower Services (one of the employment agencies) said: "Of course there is some commercial return; our shareholders would be unhappy if we ran this as a voluntary programme."

Your client adviser will also have all the powers un-

der the Job Seekers Allowance to force you into any job. Refuse a job and your benefits will be stopped.

Manpower have been sniffing around the job centres for years. As a union rep said: "It's basically privatisation. A foot in the door for private companies who will no doubt want to expand into other areas of the employment service.'

Manpower is now the largest employer in the world, finding people 1.4million temporary jobs in 1997. Their last annual report revealed earnings of $10.5 billion worldwide. It already has a New Deal(a brutal back-to-work programme) contract in Wales, and also had the job of recruiting strike-breakers when British Airways was facing strikes in 1997.

Labour is cheap, flexible and temporary - with no employment or union rights. Manpower have an office in every British Telecom call centre in the country, and recycle staff on a week by week basis. People have seen Manpower staff thrown out of the building for arriving at work five minutes late, accidently cutting a customer off, or phoning in sick.

Meanwhile, the national minimum wage is set to stay at the penny-pinching rate of 3.60 (about $8) an hour for at least another year.

Info from SchNEWS, Jan 14th 2000

Dockers paralyse India's ports

Almost 100,000 Indian dock workers began an indefinite strike for more pay on January 18th. 50 percent of cargo movement has been affected at ports across the country.

The dock workers walked out after seven hours of talks with government officials on Monday failed to yield an agreement. The workers have demanded a doubling in pay while the government is willing to offer a rise of 28 percent.

In the eastern port city of Calcutta, police stood on guard as angry workers shouted, waved red flags and obstructed officials from going to their offices. More than 400 Home Guard and 80 Navy personnel were called in to intimidate the Bombay strikers, and the Navy have moved in at all 11 striking ports.

A spokesman for Kandla, India's busiest port, handling 41,000 tonnes of dry cargo and 97,000 tonnes of liquid cargo each day, said staff attendance had fallen sharply, hitting cargo movement. Unloading and loading of cargo, movement of ships, railway transportation work and handling of ships by flotilla workers has been affected by the strike.

Operations at the southern port of Madras, which handles over 35,000 tonnes of coal a day, were hit.

"We were caught unawares as the workers struck from the third shift last night and there was a bit of intimidation of workers who were yet to leave the port, so we have been left with a backlog of vessels," a senior port official said.

General Strike in India

Workers in India may be calling for worldwide support as a series of strikes spread across the country. As well as the striking dockers taking action(see above), power workers have plunged one state (Uttar Pradesh) into darkness in their battle against privatization. The response of the government has been to sack workers, arrest union leaders and send in troops. Government workers, doctors and others have joined in the strikes. This is a huge setback to the government's plans for "reform", as demanded by the World Bank, IMF and WTO.

Australian Prisoners Union

Australian Prisoners Union (APU) was launched on Saturday 17 July 1999 at the Clubhouse, Jubilee Park, Glebe, NSW. According to Framed (issue #38), the APU will be an independant union of prisoners and paroled prisoners. Some of the issues APU will be campaigning for and being representatives for prisoners on include:

-lack of legal aid,

-payment of proper employment entitlements,

-improved education and rehabilitation services.

Companies are racing into prisons by the truck load, bidding over contracts to have prisoners produce their goods for next to nothing. Such shoddy practices undermine the hard fought wages and conditions of workers in related industries. Any initiative, such as the formation of the APU, should be applauded, not only because it improves the conditions of prisoners but also because the state will inevitably do to the working class what it can get away with doing to prisoners.

CARE

The Computers Assisting Reform and Education (CARE) program currently being introduced into Australian prisons has been attempting to donate computers to prisons across Australia in order to provide prisoners with access to computer technology. Not surprisingly, NSW Department of Corrective Services (DCS) revoked the donations. It appears the DCS would rather prisoners live in the dark ages with no computer skills when they are finally released from prison. And even when community groups and local businesses do the department's job for them by handing prisons computer hardware on a silver platter the DCS has the tenacity to refuse prisoners the chance to obtain new skills. Such is government. Such is it's justice. Such is it's morality. Thumbs up to CARE for trying.

Suggestions for the Student Movement in Korea

from our correspondant (edited for space)

1. Now 'Student Movement' can not lead total social movement. The hegemony of social movement shifted to Citizens Movement. Labour movement got even its national federation like 'Minjunochong'. We students have only to choose what we can do well against the all kind of injustice and unfairness.
2. Throw away the desire of grabbing political hegemony. When studen unions want to get the political hegemony among others, please stop to walk and think of by themselves "Who elected us, and who are against students' right". The struggle for hegemony achievement can kill the parties of student unions at time.

3. Act for students, not for political drive. When you prepare some action plan, think about "what you're doing is for or against student's right?". If student unions want just political drive, they could lose their way among other groups, which can politically overwhelm them.

4. Don't dream of massive demonstration We think history want massive demonstration all the time, but all the history didn't be made by massive demonstration. Change you daily life first, and next one is the life of your family and friends'.

5. Enlarge 1 year cycle of student movement Do annually not what all student union can easily do, but do actively what they couldn't do. When your student union want to organize mainly freshmen, all the program will focus on routine program for freshmen. The raising and continuity of leadership can be important, but can you answer this question? "How many freshmen can you persuade to join in actions and demonstrations after election period or during winter vacation."

6. Graduate quickly from university, and please get into society, continuing social movement. Movement maintains for whole life. Are you dreaming your student unions achieve all the peace of the world? If you want to maintain your student movement in some organizations, quickly graduate from university, and get into social movement. When you set up your viewpoint on social movements, back to school and meet your junior members. And then please say to them,"This is Student Movement".

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KWON SANG GU(HORIZON)
SOUTH KOREA

The **Anarcho-Syndicalist Association** is a workers movement which believes in:

(a) **Solidarity**: The problem of any one worker is the problem of all workers. The organisation supports the fight of any workers. Mutual support is the only strength of the workers.

(b) **Organisation**: The base of discussion and decision is the workers assemblies and all decisions come from the base.

(c) **Defense**: The ASA serves to secure the defense of the workers against capitalism and the institutions of the state.

The **Anarcho-Syndicalist Association** is different from other workers movements and Trade Unions in Australia in that:

(a) **Autonomy**: The ASA doesn't depend on any political party of leaders. Each branch is autonomous.

(b) **Federalism**: An organisation based on the autonomy of each branch and against all types of centralisation. The branches only federate to form a united front.

(c) **Anti-Authoritarian**: Rejects all types of authority and bureaucracy. The liberty of the individual being the basis of the ASA.

It happened in History

by Professor Noah F. N. Lott

January 2000 saw two anniversaries of significance to anarchist history. It will be 25 years since the founding of the Federation of Australian Anarchists (FAA). It is also the tenth anniversary of the Melbourne tramways occupation.

JANUARY 1975, THE FOUNDING OF THE FAA

In January 1975, over 300 anarchists from across Australia gathered in Sydney for what was at that time, the largest anarchist conference held in the country. In some ways it represented the birth of the Australian-born anarchist movement as previous to this time most anarchists and anarchist organisations were drawn from the migrant communities, particularly the Italian, Bulgarian and Spanish. The conference culminated in the foundation of the FAA which was a federation of groups and individuals in most of the major cities in Australia.

A wide variety of topics were covered in workshops and seminars which included a renewed interest in anarcho-syndicalism as well as issues covering gender, sexuality, education and the enviroment. It was the first time that many anarchists in Australia had participated in such an event.

Unfortunately, the FAA collapsed 18 months later at its last conference in June 1976 under the weight of arguments around the so-called 'workerist v lifestyle' debate. This debate revolved around questions regarding the role of the individual and the collective around the priority of class struggle. Some attributed the failure of the FAA to difficulties associated with a federation based on groups and individuals as opposed to a federation of groups. Responsibility for publishing the FAA Bulletin was rotated amongst the larger groups.

There wasn't a further attempt at anarchist federation until the founding of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation in 1986.

JANUARY 1990, THE MELBOURNE TRAMWAYS OCCUPATION

On 1 January 1990, tramways workers in Melbourne occupied their depots and ran the tram service for free. In the case of South Melbourne depot, the service was run according to a timetable that drawn up by the workers themselves.

Just before midnight on the same day, the State government of Victoria cut the electricity to the tramways power grid, but not before the tramways workers were tipped off. Hundreds of trams were driven into the central business district of Melbourne forming a blockade that went for 33 days.

The influence of anarcho-syndicalist ideas was obvious in the dispute and due in large part to SPARKS magazine, published and distributed by the Public Transport Workers Association affiliated to the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation, the Australian section of the International Workers Association.

During the dispute itself, a number of support groups initiated by the Melbourne based locals affiliated to the ASF based at Brunswick, Preston and South Melbourne Depots. At Brunswick Depot, members of the support group were included in the decision-making processes of the dispute, a brilliant example of worker-community control.

FEDERATION - WHERE TO NOW?

In 2000, a quarter of a century since the founding of the FAA, there is no functioning anarchist federation in Australia. The ASF of 1986-93 was certainly an improvement on the FAA of 1975-76 having absorbed previous lessons. Yet, there is renewed interest in anarchist federation of autonomous workplace and community organisations - one of the main tenets of of the practise of anarchism. The Anarcho-Syndicalist Association actively seeks autonomous workers organisations with which it may federate as a prerequisite to realising an anarchist society.

I99 International Syndicalist Solidarity Conference
San Francisco, California, USA, June 1-5th, 1999

"We see the world as our country, humanity as our family. We reject all political and national frontiers..."
Anarcho Syndicalist Federation "Basis For Federation"

The I99 International Syndicalist Solidarity conference was organised to bring together people with broadly revolutionary outlooks. People came from around the world so they could meet face to face and discuss and compare methods of struggle. On June 1st 1999, 110 registered participants from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden, Korea, and Switzerland, as well as from all over the USA , started the five day conference. The aims of I99 Conference stated clearly that the objective was to share experiences and information, and to generate international networks of revolutionary syndicalists. It was specifically stated from the outset, that the aim was "not to make decisions about anything."

The Anarcho Syndicalist group of Melbourne (ASG-M) endorsed I99, and sent two delegates to give a report on the ASG-M's activities as well as to meet face to face with likeminded people. The report delivered by Bonnie, on the achievements and goals of the ASG-M since its founding in 1997, was positively received. Reports were also presented by the Freie ArbeiterInnen-Union (FAU-IWA), Germany; Workers Solidarity Alliance (WSA-IWA) of the USA, Victoria BC Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Canada; Australian IWW; Food Not Bombs San Francisco; Swedish Youth Federation (SUF); Central Organisation of Swedish Workers (SAC); Confederation Nationale du Travail (CNT-Vignolles), Paris, and different IWW locals and libertarian groups from the USA. The international participants gave an informative account of the activities, organisation and strategies of their groups,after which we had an opportunity to engage, question and discuss ideas with them.

The running of the conference was managed by the participants,with the cooperation of the I99 organising committee (who had worked for two years on the project). Problems with communicating and translating, facilitating and the agenda, were all discussed, decided upon, and implemented by the participants. Food was graciously provided every day by SF Food Not Bombs,a libertarian, anti-militarist organisation that feeds the homeless,and who have chapters worldwide,including Australia. Everyone participated collectively (as only workers can), in ensuring the conference ran smoothly and consistent with anarchist principles.

The first day was spent organising the conference and hearing the first reports from delegates. In the following four days lectures and workshops were given under broad daily titles like: "Criminalisation of the Masses"; "Capitalist Restructuring"; "Alternatives to Capitalist Restructuring" and "International Solidarity Strategies." Many lectures were about organising campaigns and the methods used in those campaigns. Miss Mary Ann (Exotic Dancers Union) spoke about strippers from the "Lusty Lady", organising to improve pay and conditions, largely through direct action and negotiation. The lectures (called "forums") were on varied topics including Prison Labour, Food

Not Bosses (a campaign fighting the business sectors' attacks on the homeless),the Sans Papiers (Without Papers) campaign against the injustice of national borders, Women and Unions, Poverty and Homelessness, Temporary and Precarious Workers,(addressing the exploitation of temp work), Workers and the Environment, and Workers Collectives and Cooperatives.

The workshops were educational and attempted to share experiences as well as ideas, with the aim of putting what was learnt into practice, as well as maintaining important networks of comradeship and information.. Some exceptional workshops which I attended were the Syndicalist Youth, Native Sovereignty, and Anti-Fascist workshops. It was informative to hear first hand of the similar battles and the adaptive strategies of participants around the globe.

While the well-prepared lectures and workshops were illuminating and educational, this was only one level of the networking that went on. During and between sessions, as well as in the evening, participants organised additional meetings with others on the basis of their industries, localities, and sometimes just for mutual interest and international networking. The socialising, especially with affinity people, was good for creating international links and learning a little more about the activities, organisation and goals of anarcho-syndicalist organisations overseas.

From the networks that have been created , work continues to be done by communicating through mail and also through the Internet. A future International Solidarity Conference is being planned, possibly to be held in Germany. For a time at least ASG-M delegates were able to step beyond geographical boundaries which affect our outlook and our ability to organise, and put internationalism into practice. By sharing our different experiences we were able to consider and scrutinise principles as well as ideas on tactics. The attendance at I99 was beneficial to the ASG-M's project of building an international Anarcho- Syndicalist movement, consistent with the principles of the International Workers Association (IWA)That is ,to decimate and abolish capitalism.

Jason Odering
ASG-M delegate to the I99 Conference.

Information pertaining to the I99 International Syndicalist Solidarity Conference is available at the I99 website http://www.iww.org/~I99,
Or you can check the ASG-M website http://www.xchange.anarki.net/~asg-m.

Book Review
Syndicalism: What is it?
By Gaylord Wilshire

The term 'syndicalism' is, in it's english translation, another name for 'union'. Gaylord Wilshire states "The essence of Syndicalism is the control by the workers themselves, be they intellectual or manual, of the conditions of their work." Gaylord also follows on to discuss ownership. "Syndicalism proposes that this control of the technical process now excercised by the capitalist shall pass to various groups of organized workers of the various industries."

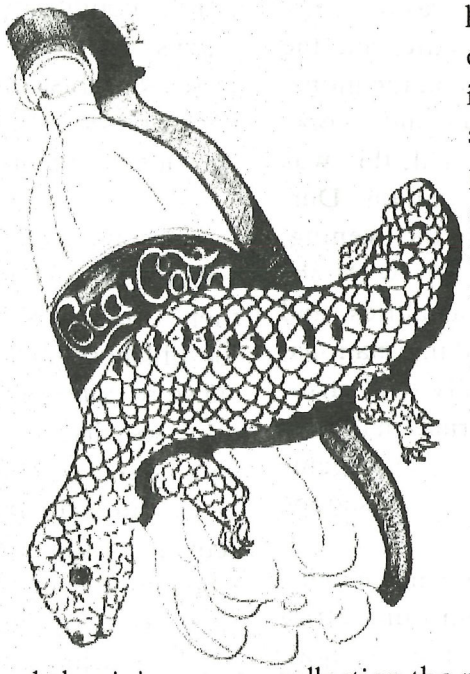
Generally speaking, unions today don't actually encompass such ideas as workers seizing control of their workplaces. In fact it is common for a union to be affiliated (pay dues) to a political party. Gaylord Wilshire notes two trends of organisation in achieving socialism: one being political (Parliamentary Socialism) and the other industrial (syndicalism). "Labour is the basis of life. Hence [the workers] activities within a labour organization can very easily be infinitely more pronounced than in a political organization, which is more or less foreign to him even when completely in his own control." Whereas Marxists argue for the political organization of the workers and the importance of the state, Gaylord argues for workers (the people the Marxists are apparently trying to liberate) to develop industrial organisations in their place of work rather than put their hope in the ballot box. "But whereas Socialism looks to social organisation, proceeding from the present Capitalist State downward to the workers, the Syndicalists look to the workers taking such control and giving it to the community." Gaylord Wilshire makes generalizations about socialists in his essay which I don't agree with. I think the term 'socialist' and the term 'state socialist' are not one and the same thing. Perhaps Gaylord was referring to a certain strain of socialist (ie: state socialist). 'Syndicalism: What is it?' is merely eight pages in A5 format. Though written at the beginning of this century, it has stood the test of time, and is as relevant today as it was when it was written. Overall, I found the essay easy to understand and full of interesting ideas. Read it.

WHAT A MESS

Many years ago, Australia enjoyed the safe, clean, and environmentally sound refillable milk bottle. But things have changed for the worse in the packaging world, particularly in regard to beverage containers. This short report is not merely an environmental discussion, but also an expose on economics, employment, and community control.

To begin, I would like to define 3 words you will come across when dealing with recycling:

1. Recycling: The recovery of materials previously used on a 'one off' occasion. Once recovered the material is used in a production process to make a similar product. Discarded aluminium cans returned, to remake aluminium cans, is a perfect example.



2. Reprocessing: The use of waste material to make a different product. An example would be returned aluminium cans that are then used to make aluminium building frames.

3. Reuse: The using of a material more than once, as in the case of refillable bottles.

From these definitions you will hopefully ascertain that much of what is recycled in Melbourne is in fact merely being reprocessed with the exception of some glass and aluminium.

Not everything that is put in your recycling bin is recycled or reprocessed however. In fact, leaked reports as well as common sense indicate that much PET/HDPE plastic, as well as paper/cardboard collected in kerbside recycling schemes end up in the tip.

The packaging industry has one objective; to create more packaging, which means inevitably more waste. In the past, local (independent) beverage industries flourished in both rural and urban areas, creating much needed jobs. Nowadays, however, multinational companies (ie: CocaCola) have ever increasing control of the market in the beverage industry. One only has to look at the amount of imported orange juice from Brazil in Australian fruit juice products to understand the absurdity of the capitalist 'Free market' system.

Blatant waste of natural resources creates limited and finite jobs. Responsible resource recovery and waste minimisation, on the other hand, I argue, will not only mean more jobs (as it's more labour intensive), but also protect resources and allow us to reap the benefits of our resources without costing the earth.

The recycling industry is so up shit creek that the container industry claims to spend $4 million extra to buy back recycled materials. It does this, I assure you, merely to appease the public and convince them that the packaging industry actually cares. Compare the $4 million they spend to the $70-$100 million subsidy from ratepayers. Yes, WE subsidise the recycling industry. Kerbside recycling hits you and me in the pocket through our rate subsidies so that the packaging industry can continue rorting the system for more and more money. The packaging industry runs itsel,as it is self regulating. Not even the government has a say in how the packaging industry runs (except in South Australia, in a limited capacity).

Unstable and falling market prices make recycling a risky business for councils and contractors. In other words, unstable employment. But why should it be unstable when there's so much being 'recycled'? Think about it. Say a contractor collects a tonne of PET plastic at a cost of $500. Prior to collection the price of PET was say $800 a tonne. But the stock market whistles a tune, Kerry Packer drops a fork while eating dinner, and before you can say 'bloody rip off' the price of PET has dropped to $400 a tonne. The contractor loses $100 and lays off a couple of employees.

In 1993-94, councils in Sydney made $6.5 million in profits from basket revenue per tonne compared to collection cost per tonne. In the year 1999-2000 councils will actually lose $38 million because collection costs will far outweigh basket revenue from sold recycables. Paper and PET/HDPE plastic are a major reason for this. Pretty soon, paper, PET, and HDPE will be virtually worthless. Why recycle something when it's monetarily worthless?Most (perhaps all companies) would prefer to bin or burn the material. This is a dilemma councils will face increasingly in years to come.

Better resource recovery and waste management will mean less burden on the environment and less rubbish tips. PET plastic is derived from oil. Oil is

continued on page18

Where We Stand

Where we stand' is part of the Aims, Principles and Statutes of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation (ASF). The Anarcho-Syndicalist Group of Melbourne operates in accordance with these Statutes.

The Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation is a libertarian workers movement organised according to anarcho-syndicalist principles. We aim to create a society based on liberty, mutual aid, federalism and self-management.

We believe the working class and the employing class have nothing in common. Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organise as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production and abolish the wage system.

In the present we take an active part in the struggle for worker solidarity, shorter hours, immediate wage increases and improved working conditions. And we actively oppose all attacks on workers such as conscription of labour, strike breaking, drives for increased production and longer working hours, wage cuts or unemployment.

We want worker/community self-education for complete self-management of production, distribution and social organisation. This will come about by worker/community expropriation of wealth and the creation of alternative economic systems.

We are opposed to all economic and social monopoly. We do not seek the conquest of political power, but rather the total abolition of all state functions in the life of society. Hence we reject all parliamentary activity and other collaboration with legislative bodies. We believe in fighting organisations in the workplace and community, independent of, and opposed to all political parties and Trade Union bureaucracies.

Our means of struggle include education and direct action. To ensure the full participation of all in both current struggle and the future self-management of society, we oppose centralism in our organisations. We organise on the basis of Libertarian Federalism that is from the bottom up without any hierarchy and with full freedom of initiative by both local and regional groups. All co-ordinating bodies of the Federation consist of recallable delegates with specific tasks determined by local assemblies.

We see the world as our country, humanity as our family. We reject all political and national frontiers and aim to unmask the arbitrary violence of all governments.

We oppose racism, sexism, militarism, religion, and all ideologies and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of people everywhere to control their own lives and their environment. We support the struggle of the aboriginal people for self-determination and land rights.

We defend the earth, skies and waters and all flora and fauna from pollution and exploitation by capitalists, militarists and Government.

If you are interested in forming an anarcho-syndicalist group in your local area,

contact the Anarcho-Syndicalist Association today!

Post: P.O. Box 98, East Brunswick 3056 * *E-mail:* asgm@xchange.anarki.net * *Phone:* 0414 380 211
Or ASA Ashburton: P.O. Box 111, Ashburton, Victoria 3147.

SMELLS LIKE TEAM SPIRIT

"They never knew what hit them. They had assumed it would be business as usual, the way it had been for decades. Rich men gather, meet, decide the fate of the world, then return home to amass more wealth. It's the way it's always been. Until Seattle."
- Michael Moore, U.S comedian (not director general of the WTO)

America hadn't seen anything like it since the Civil Rights/anti war protests of the Sixties. Tens of thousands of people converged on Seattle in November last year in a united effort to try and shut down the World Trade Organisation talks. Their presence and actions were met by brutal repression by the state as the world looked on.

SO WHAT IS THE WTO?

Until Seattle, it was not widely understood what the World Trade Organisation did. It is, essentially, an unelected global government. It prioritizes trade and commercial considerations over all other values. WTO rules generally require domestic laws, rules and regulations designed to further worker, consumer, environmental, health, safety or other non-commercial interests to be undertaken in the 'least trade restrictive' fashion possible. We are told that if we reduce government standards, the free market will bring about an economic growth which benefits us all. The reality is, of course, very different. The giant multinationals are using the free trade ruse to concentrate their power and wealth at an alarming rate.

The WTO came into existence on the 1st January 1995, promising the world enormous economic gains. Instead its rulings have produced a 'race to the bottom' in labour, social and environmental laws. Since it was created, every environmental, health or safety policy it has had to rule on, has been deemed an illegal trade barrier. In fact, just the threat of being taken to the WTO court has made countries water down their legislation. There is no appeal procedure once a WTO tribunal has declared a country's laws illegal: the country must change its law or face trade sanctions. 'Under WTO rules, once a commitment has been made to liberalise a sector of trade, it is difficult to reverse' (statement found on the WTO website). Governments can use WTO restrictions for their own ends; 'Quite often, governments use the WTO as a welcome external constraint on their policies: 'we can't do this because it would violate WTO agreements'.

Developing countries generally do not have the money and expertise to either bring cases to the WTO or to defend themselves before the WTO, thus enabling powerful companies and countries to flex their muscles, make threats and generally act like thugs.

In WTO rulings, there is no discrimination between products on the basis of where or how they are produced. It is the final product to be traded that counts, rather than the conditions under which the product is made. Child labour, forced labour and sweat-shops all help to bring the cost of trading down and therefore keep the WTO happy.

Some other examples of dodgy WTO policies include the following: potentially damaging foodstuffs, for example, gentically modified organisms, are not allowed to be distinguished from safer alternatives. Factors such as allergies in hidden ingredients, and the ethical choices of vegetarians and religious believers are entirely overlooked. This is despite polls showing 93% of Americans favour labelling of genetically modified products.

A typical case is to be found in Guatamala, where despite the passing of a law, based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) code restricting the promotion of infant baby milk formula over breast milk for infants, the multinational company Gerber Foods succeeded in having this overturned, by threatening WTO action against the Guatamalan government. Milk substitutes have been responsible for the deaths of 1.5 million infants a year according to UNICEF.

Canada has been one of the leading advocates in asking other nations to rethink their environmental laws in accordance with WTO standards. Canadian industries are challenging environmental decisions, using the WTO to try to force countries to buy Canada's wood and paper clear cut from their last old growth forests. And don't forget asbestos-the French have banned the substance, so Canada, one of the world's largest exporters of it, cried out for assistance from the WTO. Canada has claimed that even if the ban doesn't violate any WTO rules, they are at least eligible for compensation, as it impairs the expected trade benefits promised to them in the last Round of WTO negotiations.

According to the United Nations, in almost all developing countries that have undertaken rapid trade liberalisation, wage inequality has increased, most often in the context of declining industrial employment of unskilled workers and a large decline in real wages. In a nutshell, the WTO rules are out to establish what the organisation itself calls 'harmonisation'. Their aim is to homogenise international health, environmental and all other standards to their low level.

ON THE GROUND IN SEATTLE

"I never got on with environmentalists until I realised we were all fighting for the same thing,"
Dan Petrowski, Michigan steelworker

The aim of the protests was to shut down the meetings - and shut them down they did, with Tuesday's opening ceremony delayed, then finally abandoned, as delegates were stopped from entering the Conference centre. Thousands laid siege, blocking the streets in the face of tear gas, pepper spray, concussion grenades, and rubber bullets. The Governor of Washington declared

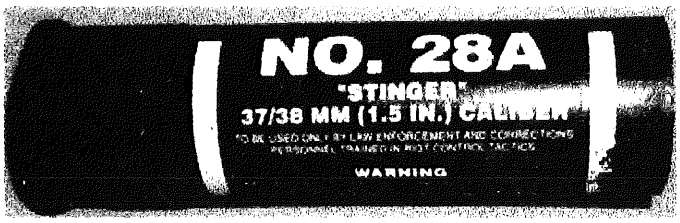
a state of emergency on Tuesday night, and the National Guard was sent in. They fought protestors throughout the night to secure a 52 block 'no protest zone' around the conference site.

By 3pm on Wednesday, over 400 people had been arrested or taken into custody. Police didn't discriminate - they arrested protesters who had taken over intersections on the outskirts of the 'no protest zone', and tear-gassed a 4,000 person march by the Teamsters union. Activists from Detroit and Lansing were detained at a nonviolent protest outside the 'no protest zone'. They were held by police on a bus with no bathroom for over 12 hours, after refusing to disembark because access to a lawyer was denied.

The brutality of the police did not discourage people. On Friday, an estimated 10,000 joined a labour-led march organised within about 24 hours. They protested about the WTO as well as the city's infringements on civil liberties through the creation of a 'no protest' zone.

Hundreds of arrested protestors cut their plastic handcuffs with nail clippers, barricaded themselves in the buses used to take them to jail and refused to give their names.

A Direct Action Network Medical Collective was set up to provide first aid and other health services to activists and others (onlookers, media, residents and anyone else requesting assistance). They provided care for hundreds of chemcially assaulted casualties on November 30 and December 1, and hundreds more requested information and treatment in the following days.



In normal police operations where chemical weapons are used against civilians, chemical irritants that affect sight, breathing and co-ordination are used. However, with the casualties the Medical Collective treated, the reported symptoms were 'inconsistent with the pattern of symptoms which may be ascribed to irritating agents'. Some of these unusual symptoms included the abrupt and immediate onset of menstruation (asynchronous with the usual menstrual cycle), muscular twitches, lethargy, disorientation, diminished concentration and nocturnal hallucinations.

Some individuals exposed in the Pike Place Market area reported that the aforementioned symptoms came immediately after exposure to a non-irritating agent which did not cause pain, lacrimation or burning of mucous membranes. The police say they used non-lethal weapons, but one man reported listening to a local radio station when a man called in weeping. His wife had been attacked by the police while leaving work and she lost their child - she was 4 months pregnant. A doctor blamed the miscarriage on the on the effects of the gas

THE ROLE OF THE BLACK BLOC

The Black Bloc was a loosely organised cluster of anarchist affinity groups and inidividuals who came together for the protest. They have been blamed by some for the initial violent reaction of the police, but it should be noted that until Tuesday 4pm, the only property damage in the city was to a McDonalds store. It seems that their actions started only after the police began shooting at the protesters with rubber bullets,beating them, and using chemical sprays and concussion grenades to 'move them on'.

The aim of the Black Bloc was to attack property that was symbolic of the corporate takeover of the world. This involved the destruction of corporate buildings,the detourning of corporate advertising, and so on. They made their philosophy known in a communique where they stated: 'We contend that property destruction is not a violent activity unless it destroys lives or causes pain in the process. By this definition,private property,especially corporate private property,is itself infinitely more violent than any action taken against it'.

The Black Bloc were under the impression that their organizing skills were what kept them from being arrested,but observers of the action tell a different story. It seems that the Black Bloc sabouteurs were used by the police as an excuse to crack down on the whole protest. One witness tells of how he saw the Bloc herded from place to place,always in sight of a corporate target,but never prevented from attacking it. This is a classic tactic used by police in Western democracies to discredit protests. Another witness tells of plain clothes police, dressed as part of the Black Bloc joining the anarchists, only to arrest those around them at the end of the day.

The tactics of the Black Bloc came under a lot of fire both during and post N30. While most of the criticism came from liberals,who by their very nature hold extremely naive and specific views on how 'social change' will eventuate, there has been comment from fellow activists in much the same tenor. This has worked against all who were there by playing into the media's representations of the protesters as violent thugs. In the world of media generalisations and lies you don't have a choice as to how you look in the eyes of the world. Local news stations were reporting the broken windows of businesses and not the broken bones of protesters. They reported things like 'police fatigue', which I assume is when your arms get tired after you beat people for hours. They talked - and continued to talk about - the extreme 'restraint, open mindedness, and gentleness' displayed by police.'

Inside the Conference centre, the delegates from poorer countries complained that they were being sidelined, while the world's elite held secret 'Green Room discussions'. Many Third World Countries were excluded from the Green Room discussions. More than 70 developing countries, primarily from Africa and the Carribean declared that they would not sign a final declaration negotiated in a process from which they had been excluded. As a delegate from Zimbabwe explained, the street demonstrations emboldened the Third World negotiators to object to the exclusionary processes insdie the WTO.

IF YOU'RE RICH ENOUGH....

'The Seattle Host Organisation (SHO) is committed to ensuring that the private sector is an integral part of the events'. This was the line given to corporations by the SHO, an organisation set up by co-chairs Bill Gates and Phil Condit, CEO of Boeing. They worked with the office of the US Trade Representative and WTO officials, offering different packages to corporations such as Shell and Nestle. Altogether the companies put in US$9.2million to fund the talkfest. For a mere US$250,000, Emerald Level passes guaranteed companies 5 guests at the SHO's opening and closing receptions, as well as to an exclusive ministerial dinner. They also got to send 4 guests to private sector conferences arranged by the SHO, and received updates on the WTO Seattle meetings and advertising opportunities during the proceedings.

Most of the world's poorest countries do not have the means to implement decisions made at the previous round of talks which finished five years ago. Some of these countries can't afford to have a permanent representative in Geneva where the rolling talks are held, and 30 countries couldn't even afford

to send delegates to Seattle!

The WTO talks were finally abandoned on Friday night.

SOLIDARITY ACTIONS

Many other protests against the WTO took place around the world. Here are just a few:

SEATTLE

* The Longshore and Warehouse Union shut down the Port of Seattle and dozens of ports along the West Coast.
* Seattle taxi-drivers chose November 30th to strike over worsening pay and conditions.
* The Firebrigade Union refused to turn their fire hoses upon the protesters despite repeated requests from the police.
* One delivery boy handed over his pizzas to the demonstrators outside the Westin Hotel, rather than give them to the right-wing talk radio station presenters who had ordered them.

UK

In London, thousands of people gathered outside Euston Station in support of rail and tube workers. Riot police outnumbered protesters as they blocked in the crowd and forcefully took photo's and ID. At the end of the rally a police van was torched and around 40 people were arrested by the police. 4 were charged with violent disorder and 7 were injured.

FRANCE

On 25 Nov 5000 French farmers gathered with their sheep, ducks and goats and feasted on regional products under the Eiffel tower in protest at the impact of trade liberalisation. On Tuesday, 800 miners clashed with cops, ransacking a tax office and burning cars in 2 towns in eastern France.

INDIA

In Bangalore, several thousand farmers protested. At the end of the demo they issued a 'Quit India' notice to Monsanto (who are patenting seed that farmers have used for thousands of years), telling them to leave the country or face direct action. Another notice was issued to the Indian Institute of Science, which has permitted Monsanto to do research work on its premises. In Madya Pradesh more than 300 indigenous Adivasis jumped the fence of the World Bank building on 24th November. They blocked the building, covering it with posters, graffiti, and cow shit, and sang traditional songs at the gate.

SWITZERLAND

In Geneva, activists cut the electricity supply to the WTO HQ causing an explosion in the adjacent power supply building. This plunged the WTO building into darkness and wiped out computer links to Seattle. Unfortunately, this situation only lasted for a few hours.

AUSTRALIA

In Melbourne, an afternoon protest was held. Activists chalked, chanted and chided at various locations throughout the city, including the offices of a PR company that works for dictatorships around the world. Hundreds of people turned up for the 'corporate scumbags' tour in the evening, and were given a tour of offending corporations and businesses, which ended at the stock exchange.

Compiled from reports in SchNEWS, Earth First! Action Update, A-INFOS and other alternative media sources.

For further information:

* Z Net: http://www.lbbs.org/weluser.htm
* Indymedia: http://www.indymedia.org
* http://www.seattle .org/
* or check out the WTO official home page: http://www.wto.org/

ON THE DOLE QUEUE

'Work For The Dole' Exposed!

This is a first hand account of that sham of the Federal Government, known as "Work For The Dole." It's touted as many things, from giving the targeted young employee "confidence" and skill, to infusing the work ethic into dole bludgers. In reality it's just a political baton to bludgeon the unemployed into submission with, and to force them into shit work and crime.

When I became ensnared in the "Work For The Dole" scam the first thing I was thinking ,(like everyone else), was: "How do I escape?" It wasn't going to be easy, as the scheme was a big Liberal Government ploy, with a lot of time, money and ideological malice invested in it. The pathetic program had to be made to look like it was working to those on the outside, even if only by the use of the big stick.

The first meeting we were ordered to attend was tightly controlled by more than a few big knob bureaucrats from Centrelink. Although some complained that they thought the scheme was a joke, they were duty bound to ensure it ran smoothly. Like in school detention, they sat us down and told us we were bound to the scheme, and had to serve our time sooner or later. Some stormed out, while others stayed and were shackled to contracts, not being in any position to lose their only source of income.

The threat of our benefits being stopped was always hanging over us. People who managed to escape had usually found some really shit work (with unacceptable pay and conditions), while others indulged in criminal activity. Escapees are forced into exploitative, low paid work, which is good for business, keeping labour prices down and boosting profits for the bosses. It's shit for the unemployed to be pushed into poorly paid, often menial and dangerous work. The inducement of crime is a fortunate side effect for the state, particularly in it's attempt to control the lumpen youth that it wants to target for not willingly sacrificing themselves to the machinery of wage slavery.

The actual scheme was an exercise in boredom and floundering stupidity. Far from instilling vital skills and promoting confidence it actually attempts to demoralise and opens the unemployed to exploitation. Most of the time we were shut in office rooms, (which weren't ventilated, let alone cooled in the middle of summer). The lengthy periods of collective boredom and frustration reminded me of being in detention. You pushed your way through until your time was done, bucking up when you could, but trying not to cop more time or punishment. It made many people, including myself, consistently angry and depressed. Although the rhetoric tried to dissuade us otherwise,the programme was designed as a form of punishment for being unemployed. We also got extra "commitments", such as filling in a dole diary and having to see a councillor to justify why we hadn't found a job yet - as if they were falling out the sky.

On the project side, we had to fulfil a combination of "tasks" that supposedly gave us a marketable skill in the service industry- surveying! (Like there isn't enough canvassing anyway). We were required write a survey which would assess how a non-profit group used energy, and make a report with recommendations to save energy, money and therefore the environment. Surveys and reports were shamelessly bodged, and there was a lack of knowledge regarding technology and the subject at hand. The non-profit groups were usually part of government/church/council bureaucracies, who had either fixed the problems or not bothered because they cost too much. It was such a pointless exercise, and the people we surveyed humoured us in the same way they do Year 7 students. Anyway the whole thing was sabotaged. Because of its pointlessness, we procrastinated, absconded, faked surveys and reports, etc. Everybody just did what they could to make the experience bearable. The boredom was so bad and the scheme was such a failure that dropouts and sabotage were rampant.

The tendering process for different schemes was a sham. You could bodge a tender for any sort of scheme as long as you put forward some thin veneer of a proposal.

It did not matter that we didn't accquire any skills, just that we either stayed put and saw through the detention like atmosphere, or left, getting off the dole one way or another. The government could then claim the unemployment rate went down, and that Work For the Dole participants must have got work because they were not claiming any more. However, the amount of people who actually fell into work during the scheme was merely coincidental, and even then the numbers aren't that impressive.

The Work For the Dole scam is not a productive use of the already stretched resources meant to aid the unemployed in finding suitable work. It is undoubtedly designed to punish the unemployed for being on the dole. It doesn't give the doleites skills or confidence. It wasn't meant to. The idea is to ideologically batter the unemployed and push them into shit work, and instil a dated "work ethic" morality so they can be humble wage slaves. Needless to say they never had the participants' complete submission. Government exists to help the bosses in their exploitation of the producers. The scheme is of no benefit to us, only them - it should be abolished.

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NOW THAT FEELS GOOD.

Letters

Preference will be given to letters less than 500 words. Where possible, please e-mail your letters with 'Letters to the Editor' in the subject field.

Because of the international protest over my case, two things have happened:
(1). the trial date has been set for January 11, 2000, and
(2). the possibility that I would receive a life sentence because of the enhanced sentencing laws (3 strikes and you're out!) has now been dropped, I face a year in prison at the most. We intend to call for an international week of protests by our supporters worldwide, including protests in front of the American consulates all over the world, during the week of the trial itself.

But I still don't have a lawyer, am being subjected to a "whitelist" by local employers, and harassment by local cops who stop me in the streets. I am under daily police surveillance by cops and informers working for them. The thing about this trial is that after being convicted, we could easily be killed in jail. In fact, just two weeks ago, a black man was murdered by cops in the county prison, and not a damn thing has been done about it by the "authorities". It's the usual cover-up in this city.

Mumia's case is much more serious, of course, as he will be killed. The thing here is just to put the USA government on trial before the people of the world.

Keep up the fight in OZ.

Love and struggle,

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin is an anarcho-syndicalist active in pirate radio, police accountability and anti-racism. He is involved with the journal Black Autonomy. For more information about his case, contact

Dear Comrades,

I wish to add my protest to the many others about your article on alleged "green" threats to employement. (one notes that capitalist threats to employment go unmentioned in the article)

Anarcho-syndicalists have usually distinguished themselves from run-of-the-mill bread-and-butter unionists by pointing out the greater diversity of the means of struggle (for immediate bread-and-butter ones) they advocate, and their clearer understanding of the ultimate goal, the abolition of the wages system (which offers much more than bread and butter). The article you published is an explicit return to the poorest traditions of bread-and-butter unionism, arguing that the best way to"put food on the plate and pay the mortgage" is never to attack the boss- above all, never attacking him or her for carrying on a useless and destructive business. How pitiful. Ecology is a weapon in the class struggle as the anarchist writer Elisee Reclus pointed out in the nineteenth century. The ordinary worker knows that free market capitalism threatens his or her survival. It is equally true - and another nail in capitalism's coffin - that capitalism threatens the survival of nature. We do not stop saying - unless perhaps we are in the IWW - that capitalism threatens labor, in case saying that would threaten job security. We should not stop saying either that capitalism threatens nature. If, in any particular industry, we are able to document and assess the ways it destroys labor and the land - the two cannot be isolated in self contained boxes - in order to demand the closure of that industry, we should do so, as part of our struggle to close down the whole capitalist system. If we do not struggle against in the place where we work, where will we struggle against it?

It is wrong to target the "worst" employers, and by implication, give certificates of good conduct to other bosses. We are attacking a system,where, in crisis, all bosses support each other against fundamental attacks, and where, now, we are all being dragged down to rules imposed by the worst bosses. If your writer was trying, very clumsily, to argue against isolating particular industries, in struggles to protect labor and enviromental standards, he was right. But one doubts that this was the intention. He is arguing, not that the struggles around, say, the uranium industry, should be spread throughout all Australian industry, but that such struggles should not happen at all, and, if they do, the workers

should abstain.

The struggle for an adequate, ecologically OK working enviroment is inseperable from the struggle for an ecologically sound enviroment outside the workplace. This is not something middle class greens understand. But it is not something bread-and-butter unionists understand either. A worker who doesn't worry about the enviroment generally will not worry either about the workplace enviroment - at a time when basic health and safety conditions are under threat.

If we do noy say, loud and clear, right now, that the problem with capitalism is not only how it treats workers but how and what it produces, we will ensure that any future anarcho-syndicalist society a bad imitation of the present mode of production, like late, unlamented USSR.

We must fight capitalism in every way - economically, industrially, socially and economically. This is what anarcho-syndicalism has always tried to do.

Best Wishes

Owen Gager

P.S. I expect you will want to reply to this letter. It would show respect to the conventions usually odserved by anarchists if that reply did not take the form of editorial interpolations into the content of the letter itself, or "editorial replies" of greater length than the actual letter. One would expect the writer of your article to be able to write a letter "in his own write".
(A reply to this letter will appear in the next issue)

Stop the Press

New Anarcho-Syndicalist Group has just formed in Sydney. On the 2nd of March, the ASG-S (Anarcho-Syndicalist Groups of Sydney) constituted itself as a group. The ASA would like to wish them the best of luck in Sydney, with whatever plans that they have. If you would like to get involved in an Anarcho-Syndicalist Group and live in the Sydney area you can contact the ASG-S at the below details.

ASG-S Sydney
P.O. Box 231
Westgate,
NSW, 2048.
asg-s@cat.org.au

SOME USEFUL WEB SITES

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<corp-focus@essential.org>
Send these guys an email asking to be put on their mailing list. Everyweek you'll get the low down on the machinations of corporations as they try to control every aspect of the planet and beyond!

ACTIVATE
*http://www.activate.8m.com
This fast growing anarchist youth group is moving on to bigger and better things, find out why they are such a threat to teachers, cops and the D.S.P.!

DAILY BLEED
*http://www.eskimo.com/~recall/bleed/calmast.htm
Bleed Meister Dave's compendium of anarchist and radical history/people/what-have-you. A new one everyday and each posting full of interesting links on all aspects of radical culture.

Continued from page 10., WHAT A MESS. a finite and potentially hazardous resource which is being squandered to make Coke bottles which, after they are opened, are used for maybe 5 minutes before being discarded. Glass has proven itself for over 2 thousand years to be an efficient and reusable container. Bring back the returnable milk, fruit juice, soft drink, and alcoholic bottles. Demand that the packaging industry become more accountable to the general public and government, as the public subsidizes the mess created by the packaging industry. But more importantly, strive for a world where communities have real control over issues affecting them and workers don't have to worry about the boss laying them off because of fluctuations in industry.

References:

1. 'It's time for container deposits' by Local Government and Shires Associations, NSW.
2. 'Container Deposits Legislation' by Georgios Alexandrou. SCAM Publications.

The Anarcho-Syndicalist

SPORT

MID-SEASON FAVOURITE TAKES 1999 TITLE

Khanny Edges Out Leigh in a Thriller

The 1999 ASGM Open 8-ball Championship Tournament has been won by 3rd seed Khanny who defeated 4th seed Leigh in a thrilling encounter in which both players missed a number of shots on the black.

A record total of 24 players played 115 games over eight rounds to qualify for the finals making this tournament the greatest yet. 16 players qualified for the finals which again didn't disappoint in terms of thrills and shock upsets.

11th seed Tristan, who had set a record during the season for foul ball losses, came good in the finals knocking out 6th seed Sean before his gallant tilt came to an end at the hands of Leigh in the semi-final. Meanwhile, Khanny overcame No.1 seed and warm tournament favourite Peter in the other semi-final.

Having made it into the Grand Final, Khanny started well racing to a four ball lead before Leigh made his trademark come from behind effort to even the score. The pressure was on both players who found themselves only one shot away from sport's ultimate triumph. Nerves were evident as both players missed shots before Khanny sank the black ball that decided the issue for 1999.

The 2000 Championship Tournament is scheduled to begin next January. Watch this space for further details.

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1999 Ladder

(after completion of eight regular season 'home and away' rounds)

Name	Played	Won	Lost	Pts.	Pts. Ave.
1. Peter	12	10	2	45	3.75
2. Brendan	14	10	4	52	3.71
3. Khanny	10	7	3	36	3.60
4. Leigh	16	10	6	52	3.25
5. Chris	12	7	5	35	2.92
6. Sean	10	6	4	28	2.80
7. Guy	10	7	3	27	2.46
8. Brenton	11	5	6	24	2.18
9. Madwog	12	6	6	24	2.00
10. David	14	7	7	24	1.71
11. Tristan	13	5	8	21	1.62
12. Andrew	9	3	6	13	1.44
13. Bonnie	11	4	7	8	0.72
14. Clare	11	3	8	8	0.72
15. Matt	13	3	10	8	0.62
16. Egon	10	3	7	5	0.50

The Black Cats to defend their title in 2000 ASGM Open 8-ball Doubles Tournament

The reigning doubles champion, the Black Cats, will defend their title this January in a sudden-death knock-out tournament. The Black Cats defeated Team ASGM in 1999 in what was considered an upset result. The ASF Old Boys have already signalled their intention to challenge the Black Cats for the 2000 title. The tournament is to be organised by the newly formed Melbourne Anarchist Sports Club.

Leigh sets new Games Played record of 34

Leigh set a new games played record in season 1999 with the Grand Final his 34th game played since the tournament began in 1997.

Games played record 1997-99

	P	W	L
Leigh	34	22	12
Chris	26	18	8
Jason	24	9	15
David	22	11	11
Clare	21	10	11
Bonnie	20	8	12
Madwog	17	9	8
Andrew	15	6	9
Egon	15	5	10
Tristan	15	6	9

"The State denotes violence, oppression, exploitation and, injustice raised into a system and made into the cornerstone of the existence of any society. The State never had and never will have any morality. Its morality and only justice is the supreme interest of self-preservation and almighty power - an interest before which all humanity has to kneel in worship."

Mikhail Bakunin